

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02669 201850Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 USIE-00 /045 W
-----063466 201853Z /43

O 201802Z MAR 78 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1630
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS IMMEDIATE
CDR COAST GUARD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR MASS VE US

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND SAR
ASSISTANCE BY GOV

1. I WAS TELEPHONED URGENTLY THE MORNING OF MARCH 20
BY THE VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
REQUESTING PHTO INTERPRETATION AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)
ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG IN LOCATING A LIGHT PLANE CARRYING VENEZUELAN
PERSONALITY RENNY OTTOLINA. OTTOLINA AND THREE COMPANIONS
DISAPPEARED THE EVENING OF MARCH 16 ON A FLIGHT FROM MAIQUETIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO MARGARITA ISLAND. REPORTEDLY,
THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, CLUES TO GO ON.

2. IN VIEW OF OTTOLINA'S IMPORTANCE IN VENEZUELA
SOCIETY AND POLITICS, THE INTEREST OF THE VENEZUELAN
GOVERNMENT IN LOCATING HIS ARICRAFT, AND IN VIEW OF THE
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS PERSONAL REQUEST TO ME,
I RECOMMEND THAT THE USG MAKE AVAILABLE A SAR EXPERT
OR TEAM ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS. THE MINISTER TOLD ME
THT THE VENEZUELAN HAVE ENOUGH SMALL PLANES FOR THE
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SEARCH, WHAT THEY NEED IS SOMEONE TO ORGANIZE IT. ALSO, I
RECOMMEND THE USG INTERPRET SOME VENEZUELAN PHOTOS OF THE SEARCH AREA

3. RENNY OTTOLINA IS VENEZUELA'S BEST KNOWN
ENTERTAINER AND AHS RECENTLY BECOME A MAJOR POLITICAL
FIGURE AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

OTTOLINA BEGAN WORKING IN TV IN THE 50'S (INCLUDING A STINT WITH ABC IN NEW YORK AS WELL AS IN SPAIN). HE IS PERHAPS THE BEST KNOW SPANISH-SPEAKING TELEVISION PERSONALITY IN THE WORLD. IN VENEZUELA, HE IS A HOUSEHOLD WORD AND CONSIDERED SOMETHING OF A NATIONAL ASSET. IN RECENT MONTHS, OTTOLINA HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN THE 1978 ELECTIONS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY OTTOLINA WOULD RECEIVE ENOUGH VOTES TO ASSURE HIS ELECTION TO THE SENATE AND TO ELECT SEVERAL SUPPORTERS TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

4. BECAUSE OTTOLINA IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL PERSONALITY, PERESIDENTPEREZ ORDERED AN EXTRAORDINARY SEARCH FOR HIS AIRCRAFT. FURTHER, THE PRESIDENT HAS ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF OTTOLINA'S DISAPPEARANCE ALMOST DAILY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THEPRESS. FURNISHING ASSISTANCE WOULD BE A GRACIOUS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER USG CAN FURNISH IMMEDIATE SAR ASSISTANCE EITHER OUT OF SAR COORDINATION UNIT IN PANAMA OR FROM COAST GUARD IN PUERTO RICO. FURTHER, PLEASE ADVISE IF USG CAN INTERPRET IMMEDIATELY SOME VENEZUELAN INFRA-RED PHOTOS
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OF THE SEARCH AREA EITHER IN THE US OR BY SENDING EXPERT HERE.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SEARCH & RESCUE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PHOTOGRAPHS, MISSING AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Film Number: D780122-1270
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780348/aaaabotw.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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